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Subject: Briefing Note - TSG and ERT Assistance to Windsor Ambassador Bridge Blockade
Date: February 11, 2022 2:56:32 PM

ISSUE:

- To provide an update to the Commissioner regarding RCMP "O" Division resources being deployed to assist Windsor Police Services

BACKGROUND:

- On 2022-02-07, CBSA reported the Ambassador Bridge as temporarily closed to traffic from the United States to Canada. The traffic interruption is in support of the "Freedom Convoy" protest in Ottawa that is opposed to Canadian pandemic mandates. The protest is reported to be creating disruption for businesses, automakers and the supply chain on both sides of the border. Windsor PS with the recent assistance of the OPP have been maintaining traffic control and response. In anticipation of enforcement action, "O" Division Tactical Support Group (TSG) and Emergency Response Team (ERT) were requested to assist Windsor Police Services.
- "O" Division TSG and ERT members were redeployed overnight from Ottawa to Windsor, Ontario in anticipation of assistance required for potential enforcement action.

CURRENT STATUS:

- The Ambassador bridge currently has one lane opened to traffic.
- 50 "O" Division TSG members including EMRT and Commander staff are in Windsor.
- 14 ERT members including a CIC and scribe are currently in Windsor with 2 additional ERT members are en route.
- Windsor PS is the police force of jurisdiction. The OPP are the lead agency in coordinating any enforcement action.
- Earlier today (2022-February-11) Ontario Premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency and intends to, "convene Cabinet to use legal authorities to urgently enact orders that will make crystal clear it is illegal and punishable to block and impede the movement of goods, people and services along critical infrastructure,".
- CIC, TSG and ERT have participated in operational briefings and planning is ongoing should enforcement action be deemed necessary.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- The situation is ongoing and remains dynamic with potential to escalate locally and to other border points.
- Most "O" Division TSG and ERT members have already been previously deployed to Ottawa for 14 days and will be requiring relief.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS:

- Significant national and international media coverage is anticipated.
- "O" Division Media Relations have drafted media lines confirming RCMP resources are being deployed to assist Windsor PS.
- All media queries will be deferred to Windsor PS and the OPP.

DETACHMENT / UNIT COMMANDER COMMENTS:

Nil.

COMMANDER (SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS):

Nil

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